

Natural Heritage &
Endangered Species
Program

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
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MASSACHUSETTS SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

PINE BARRENS ZALE

Zale sp.1

Family - Noctuidae
Order - Lepidoptera
Class - Insecta

DESCRIPTION: The Pine Barrens Zale is a small moth with a dull color and slightly contrasting pattern. It is similar to Zale lunifera.

RANGE: This species has been found in very scattered sites in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Long Island-New York, and New Jersey.

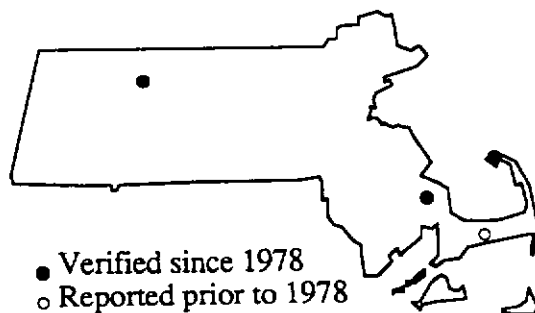
DISTRIBUTION IN MASSACHUSETTS: This moth has been reported from Montague (Franklin County), Barnstable (Barnstable County), Plymouth (Plymouth County), and Martha's Vineyard (Dukes County).

HABITAT: This species occurs in pitch pine and scrub oak barrens. In other states populations have been found in piedmont woodlands and in oak-pine forests.

LIFE HISTORY AND ECOLOGY: Eggs are laid late in May Larvae emerge in one to two weeks feeding on young foliage of a variety of oaks, and Prunus serotina. Pupation occurs in soil in early July and overwinter until the following spring.

POPULATION STATUS: The Pine Barrens Zale is listed as a Species of Special Concern in Massachusetts due to its limited population in the state and in other parts of its range. Threats to its pine barrens habitat include fires suppression and development.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Present populations should be maintained and monitored while searches for new populations are made. Controlled fires and habitat protection are also important.



Massachusetts Distribution by Town